

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07

USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

CAB-02 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 PA-01 PRS-01 HEW-04

/076 W

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P R 280910Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4269

INFO USUN NEW YORK 121

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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PARIS FOR UNESCO, ROME FOR FODAG, VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO,  
MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDF, EAID, TC

SUBJ: CERP 0008 - UNDP: EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 72386, (B) ABU DHABI 950 (NOTAL)#"

(C) ABU DHABI 861.

1. SUMMARY: UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STILL PLAYS RELATIVELY MINOR ROLE  
IN THIS OIL RICH AND STILL VERY INEXPERIENCED, UNPLANNED STATE. WITH  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNDP OFFICE ACTUALLY IN ABU DHABI, GREATER  
ROLE FOR THE UN CAN BE ANTICIPATED. IT WILL BE SLOW GOING,  
HOWEVER,SEE REF B FOR REPORT ON UNICEF ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE DIRECT RESPONSES TO TOPICS/QUESTIONS REF A.

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(A) ROLE OF UNDP IN UN ASSISTANCE EFFORT -- AS REPORTED LAST

YEAR (REF C) UNDP COVERAGE OF ABU DHABI WAS PREVIOUSLY OUT OF BAHRAIN. O TY IN JANUARY 1976 DID UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVE IN ABU DHABI. INCUMBENT IS FARUQ ACHIKZAD, AFGHAN NATIONAL, WHO HAS TITLE OF DEPUTY RES REP UNDER SENIOR COLLEAGUE IN RIYADH. IN FACT CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION APPEARS TO BE QUITE DIRECT TO AND FROM NEW YORK, WITH ACHIKZAD SIMPLY INFORMING JIDDA OF WHAT IS GOING ON. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IMPRESSED WITH ACHIKZAD, WHO APPEARS TO BE ENERGETIC, VERY

COMMITTED TO HIS ASSIGNMENT HERE, AND MUCH ATTUNED TO KIND OF PERSONAL, OFTEN TIME-CONSUMING ATTENTION WHICH IS REQUIRED TO KEEP THINGS MOVING IN THIS PART OF WORLD. IN TERMS OF COORDINATION WITHIN UN FAMILY MUCH LESS WITH OTHER DONORS, IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO JUDGE ACHIKZAD'S PERFORMANCE AFTER ONLY THREE MONTHS. CLEARLY HE HAS SOME PROBLEMS WITH HIS UNICEF COLLEAGUE WHO IS BOTH SENIOR IN AGE AND VERY MUCH ACCUSTOMED TO POSITION HE HAS HELD UNTIL NOW AS THE ONLY UN MAN IN ABU DHABI. BOTH REPS APPEAR TO BE MAKING EFFORT TO ADJUST TO NEW SITUATION, HOWEVER, AND IN TIME THINGS WILL PROBABLY WORK BETTER. WHO REP WHO HAS MOVED FROM DUBAI (REF C) TO ABU DHABI APPEARS TO HAVE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH OF HIS UN COLLEAGUES, BUT ACTIVITIES OF HIS ORGANIZATION APPEAR TO BE NEGLIGIBLE. THERE ARE NO OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS WITH RES REPS IN COUNTRY. IBRD IS NOT ACTIVE HERE.

(B) COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE -- THERE IS NO MECHANISM FOR SUCH COORDINATION AT THIS TIME. ACHIKZAD HAS, HOWEVER, MADE POINT IN HIS CALLS ON US OF IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO SUCH COORDINATION AND HIS COMPLETE WILLINGNESS (GIVEN UNDP'S LIMITED RESOURCES) FOR UNDP TO BOW OUT IN FAVOR OF BILATERAL PROGRAMS WHEREEVER OVERLAPPING MIGHT OCCUR. HE HAS, MOREOVER, BEEN VERY OPEN IN DISCUSSING WITH US AND VISITORS, SUCH AS IAD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SURVEY TEAM, BOTH UNDP PROGRAMS HERE AND ITS EXPERIENCE TO DATE IN WORKING IN THIS COUNTRY. IN SHORT, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDP OFFICE HERE SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO COORDINATION EFFORT. PROBLEM IS THAT, WITH HOST GOVERNMENT SO DISORGANIZED, EVEN THOSE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE OFTEN WHO NOT KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON, MAKING COORDINATION A DIFFICULT PROPOSITION EVEN WITH THE BEST OF WILLS.

(C) FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS -- UNDP FIVE YEAR COUNTRY PROGRAM (72-76) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR UAE WAS \$1 MILLION, THIS TO BE MATCHED BY UAEG ON A ROUGHLY EQUAL BASIS (ACTUAL SPLITS VARY FROM PROJECT TO PROJECT). GOVERNMENT HERE ALSO PAYS ALL LOCAL COSTS (E.G. FOR OFFICE, HOUSING, ETC.). THIS LEVEL HAS PROVED ADEQUATE FOR UNDP PROGRAM TO DATE, BUT PRIMARILY BECAUSE PROGRAMMING WAS SO LATE IN STARTING. IN FACT MOST OF THE JUST OVER \$900,000 COMMITTED DURING PRESENT PERIOD HAS BEEN SPENT LAST YEAR AND THIS. ACHIKAZAD HAD BEEN ORDERED TO AVOID COMMITTING \$70,000 REMAINING

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. OBVIOUSLY SPENDING HAS NOT BEEN AT THE EVEN PACE ONE WOULD HAVE DESIRED AND EITHER ANNUAL LEVEL OF EXPENDITURES OR OVERALL PROGRAM TOTAL WILL HAVE TO CHANGE DRAS- TICALLY IN NEXT FIVE YEAR PERIOD. FYI QUESTION EXISTS IN OUR MIND AS TO WHY UNDP SHOULD PAY UP TO 50 PERCENT OF PROJECT COSTS. RATIONALE IS APPARENTLY TWOFOLD: (I) ALL UN MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO SOMETHING BACK FROM THE SYSTEM; AND (II) IF CEILING WERE NOT IMPOSED IN FORM DOLLAR/PERCENTAGE COMBINATION, THEN THERE WOULD BE DANGER OF RICH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD IN EFFECT BUY UP VAST MAJORITY OF UN EXPERTS, LEAVING NOTHING FOR POORER LDC'S. WE FIND THESE ARGUMENTS LESS THAN ENTIRELY CONVINCING. UNICEF FOR EX- AMPLE, WHILE FEELING THAT SOME CONTRIBUTION (IN EFFECT EARNEST MONEY) IS IN ORDER, LIMITS ITS SHARE TO NO MORE THAN 10 PERCENT. COMPETITION FOR EXPERTS COULD BE PROBLEM, BUT IT STRIKES US THERE SHOULD BE BETTER WAY FOR UNDP TO ALLOCATE AND CONTROL ITS RE- SOURCES WHILE KEEPING LIMITED CASH FLOWING WHERE IT REALLY NEEDED.

(D) COUNTRY PROGRAMMING -- UNDP HAS NOT YET FACED UP TO PRO- GRAMMING THE NEXT FIVE YEAR CYCLE. ACHIKZAD HAS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE NOT BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO DO SO. AND HE HAS HAD HIS HANDS FULL JUST KEEPING EXISTING PROGRAMS GOING. AS MENTIONED LAST YEAR, ONE OF THE UAEG'S MAIN OBJECTIVES IN ASKING FOR UNDP RES REP TO BE STATION HERE WAS PRESTIGE. NOW THAT HE IS HERE ACHIKZAD FINDS TENDENCY ON PART OF SOME TO JUST LET EXIST- ING PROGRAMS LAPSE, BEING QUITE SATISFIED TO HAVE UNDP PRESENCE IN TOWN EVEN IF IT DOES NOTHING. ACHIKZAD OBVIOUSLY INTENDS TO FIGHT THIS ATTITUDE, BUT GIVEN LACK OF NATIONAL PLANNING HERE, HE LIKE OURSELVES WILL FIND DEVELOPMENT OF LONG TERM PROGRAM MOST DIFFICULT. RATHER HE WILL DO WELL IF HE CAN FOCUS LOCAL INTEREST ON GIVEN PROBLEM AND THEN ORGANIZE SPECIFIC PROJECT TO MEET THAT END.

(E) PROJECT EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION -- UNDP HAS TWO PROJECTS IN BEING: (I) WATER AND SOIL SURVEY (6 EXPERTS) MOSTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE NORTHERN EMIRATES; AND (II) HOUSING PROJECT (E EXPERTS) BASED IN DUBAI. IN ADDITION THEY HAVE PROVIDED THREE EXPERTS: ONE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ONE AS ADVISOR TO MINAGRICULTURE (ABOUT TO LEAVE) AND ONE CENSUS ADVISOR (HE HAS NOW DEPARTED). THE TWO PROJECTS ARE BOTH IN THEIR SECOND YEAR AND HAVE BOTH SUFFERED FROM ABSENCE OF UNDP DIRECT SUPERVISION. HOUSING PROJECT WHICH IMXOLVES ADVISE IN PLANNING, MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION SEEMS TO BE DOING WELL AND IS CERTAINLY FOCUSED ON IMPORTANT AREA. AGRICULTURE PROJECT LIKewise FOCUSES ON KEY AREA, BUT HAS SUFFERED FROM GENERAL CONFUSION WITHIN UAE OVER WHO IS DOING WHAT IN WATER AND AGRICULTURE DEPT

IF THIS CONFUSION CAN BE SORTED OUT, THEN REAMINING TWO YEARS OF THIS PROJECT COULD BE VERY SUCCESSFUL. (F) APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS --

AS INDICATED, WHILE UNDP PRESENCE IS NEW, EMBASSY BELIEVES  
RELATIONSHIP WITH RES REP ALREADY IS EXCELLENT. WE ANTICIPATE  
NO DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE LIAISON. (G) WOMEN IN  
DEVELOPMENT -- SEE REF B FOR DISCUSSION OF UNICEF EFFORTS IN  
AREA OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS OF PROBLEMS INVOLVED  
WITH SUCH EFFORTS HERE. UNDP HAS NO PRESENT PROGRAMS IN  
THIS AREA.  
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